

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00

CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 SS-15

STR-05 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/123 W

-----023942 261243Z /47

R 260714Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1399

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6690

USMTN

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: QUOTAS IMPOSED ON
IMPORTS OF BRANDY AND WHISKEY

REF: (A) STATE 156584, (B) CANBERRA 2543, (C) CANBERRA 1636

1. GOA ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 23 ITS LONG-AWAITED DECISION ON
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY
(TAA) IN ITS REPORT ON WHISKY, GIN AND VODKA WHICH
WAS RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY. GOA ACCEPTED MOST OF THE RE-
COMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE TAA, AND CONSEQUENTLY THE FOLLOWING
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SHORT-TERM MEASURES WILL APPLY TO IMPORTS OF BRANDY AND
WHISKY:

(A) A TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL DUTY RAISING CUSTOMS DUTIES ON
THESE GOODS TO A\$12.50 PER LITER OF ALCOHOL; (NORMAL RATE IS
A DOLS 10.21.

(B) THE TARIFF QUOTAS FOR CLEARANCES OF IMPORTS OF BRANDY AND WHISKY DURING THE SIX MONTHS PERIOD AUGUST 22, 1977 THROUGH FEBRUARY 21, 1978 WILL EQUAL 40 PERCENT OF IMPORTS ENTERED FOR HOME CONSUMPTION DURING 1975-76; AND

(C) A TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL DUTY OF A DOLS 20 PER LITER OF ALCOHOL FOR IMPORTS IN EXCESS OF QUOTAS.

QUOTAS WILL BE PRO-RATED AMONG IMPORTERS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR IMPORTS DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 31, 1977. TAA HAD RECOMMENDED THAT SIMILAR MEASURES BE APPLIED TO IMPORTS OF OTHER POTABLE SPIRITS, INCLUDING GIN AND VODKA. GOA DECIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THESE GOODS WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO QUOTAS AT THIS TIME.

2. TAA RECOMMENDED THAT QUOTAS BE INTRODUCED FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS, WITH QUOTA LEVEL BEING SET AT 80 PERCENT OF IMPORTS IN FY76 AND IMPORTERS' INDIVIDUAL ENTITLEMENTS BE BASED ON THEIR ENTRIES DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1976. GOA APPEAR TO HAVE "SOFTENED THE BLOW" SOMEWHAT BY REDUCING THE QUOTA PERIOD TO SIX MONTHS, AND CHANGING THE BASE YEAR FOR QUOTA ENTITLEMENTS. REFERENCE HAS GONE TO IAC ON LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE TO THE INDUSTRY AND IAC IS REQUIRED TO REPORT BY NOVEMBER 15 ON CONTINUATION OF QUOTAS BEYOND SIX MONTHS. ALSTON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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